Outgoing & Internal
S/017/0048

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Mammoth Ridge reclamation comments

Peter Brinton <peterbrinton@utah.gov> Tue, Dec 4, 2012 at 3:32 PM
To: Gary Burningham <gburningham@burninghamtrucking.com>
Cc: Paul Baker <paulbaker@utah.gov>

Hi Gary,

Paul Baker and I were able to visit the Mammoth Ridge 1 site last week to see your reclamation job. Much of the work done to date looks good, and we approve of the highwall removal and/or backfilling (and the associated burial of most of the boulders), as well as the general landform of the regraded site.

As we partially discussed on the phone, additional work will need to be done in order to meet State requirements. We understand that incoming storms limited your ability to finish the job. Here are some specific comments - see attached photos for reference.

1) Graded dump slopes on the southeast corner and eastern areas need to be graded to a shallower slope to meet the Division's stability and erosion requirements, and to provide a better chance for successful revegetation. A rippable slope of 2h:1v (or shallower) is often adequate to meet these requirements.

Specifically, on the southeast corner next to the small drainage, the dump needs to be graded so it can be ripped along the contour of the slope (perpendicular to the drainage direction), while not moving material into the existing stream channel. Material is fine-grained and the slope often smooth, and might not hold seed and may be more easily erodible. It is expected that the crest of the slope will need to be moved back further into the pit area and the slope graded accordingly.

On the eastern edge of the disturbance, the dumps need to be pushed down for the same reasons discussed, and should be able to be ripped along the contour. In this location, you can move the toe of the graded dump slope to the edge of the bigger trees, in addition to moving the slope crest back into the pit disturbance, as needed.

2) The site (especially the slopes) should be left in a rough condition for seeding. Ripping from 6 to 12 inches along the contour will achieve this result. Some areas (like some of the old steeper highwall areas on the west) don't need to be ripped if it is impractical or unsafe.

3) Unfinished dozer work has left windrows over much of the site that will need to be reduced. We assume that a shallow ripping of most of the site along the contour should help reduce windrow heights in most areas, while retaining a rough surface condition for seeding.

4) We realize that there probably isn't a enough topsoil to spread over the entire site, and that you've done a good job of keeping what little there was to start with. Some additional spreading of topsoil should be done (such as in the northwestern portion of the site, and in other areas, as practical).

5) Re-seeding should be done immediately after the additional work if possible, or very soon thereafter.

Please let me know if you have any questions or thoughts. We know wet conditions and winter can limit what can effectively be done. We will ask you to do the work in time to seed the site this season, so as to avoid the establishment of weeds during the next growing season.

Thanks.

Peter

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3 attachments

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pano4.jpg
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pano7.jpg
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